

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I unavoidably missed votes on November 6, 2001 because I was in my congressional district on official business. I would like the record to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 426, 427, and 428.

LEADERS TAKING ACTION FOR INCLUSION

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Worcester County and The National Conference for Community and Justice in honoring four individuals for their promotion of understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures. John S. Hamilton, Dr. Ogretta V. McNeil, Most Rev. Daniel P. Reilly, and Albert M. Toney III, dedicated themselves to fighting bias, bigotry and racism in America and making the nation a better place for all of us.

Mr. Hamilton put into action his belief that small, culturally diverse businesses make the difference in the economic viability of their communities. He has been a strong advocate for under-served populations, especially minority and women owned small businesses. Active with Centro Las Americas and the Business Inclusion Council, and the Martin Luther King Business Empowerment Center, he was named Massachusetts Financial Services Advocate of the Year (1999) by the US Small Business Administration. Mr. Hamilton was the driving force behind obtaining funding for the establishment of the Martin Luther King Business Empowerment Center. He was instrumental in Bay State Savings Bank sponsorship of the successful grant application for the renovation of the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street, which will provide low income housing for families in Worcester. In 1995 and 1996, under Mr. Hamilton's leadership, Bay State Savings Bank was one of the top 5 SBA lenders to minority-owned businesses in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Hamilton was recently appointed President of Medway Cooperative Savings Bank.

Dr. McNeil came to Worcester in 1956 to attend graduate school at Clark University; she never left and has made the City of Worcester her home. Dr. McNeil has served on the faculty of Assumption College, Anna Maria College, and the College of the Holy Cross. During the course of her 27-year career at the College of the Holy Cross, she served as Chairwoman of the Department of Psychology, Director of African American Studies, and Assistant Dean. Her election as the President of the New England Psychological Association symbolized her professional achievement. In 1998 Dr. McNeil was elected to the Worcester school committee where she has worked to

foster equity of education for all students. Dr. McNeil's volunteer activities include serving as a board member for the Alliance for Education, the Age Center of Worcester, the EcoTarium, and a member of the Distribution Committee of the Health Foundation of Central Mass. She is also a board member of Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Family Services and the Worcester Art Museum.

Bishop Daniel Patrick Reilly, installed as the fourth Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester in December 1994, is a beloved leader. His efforts in Worcester resulted in the formation of the covenant with the New England Synod (Lutheran), the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester and Springfield. He was one of the essential leaders in the aftermath of the loss of six Worcester fire fighters in December of 1999. He studied for the priesthood at Our Lady of Providence Minors Seminary, Warwick, RI and ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1953 after five years of philosophical and theological study at the Grand Seminaire in Saint Brieux, France. Following his ordination, Bishop Reilly served at SS. Peter & Paul Cathedral Parish, Providence as an associate pastor. He also pursued graduate studies in Business Administration at Boston College and Harvard University. He served 22 years as a priest in the Diocese of Providence. In June 1975, Pope Paul VI named him Bishop of the Diocese of Norwich, CT, where he served until being named the Bishop of Worcester. Bishop Reilly has held many posts in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB); he currently sits on the NCCB's Committee on Pastoral Practices. He rendered great support and assistance to Haiti and to India and their people. Currently he is a member of the boards of trustees at The Catholic Near East Welfare Association, Assumption College, and Saint Vincent Hospital. He holds Honorary doctoral degrees from Anna Maria College, Assumption College, and the College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester.

Mr. Al Toney's life work is the elimination of homophobia and racism. As a self-identified gay African American male, he has experienced homophobia and racism first hand. A former Worcester Police Officer, Mr. Toney has served in leadership position for the Gay Officers Action League of New England, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Central Mass., and the City of Worcester Human Rights Commission. In 1997, he founded the Safe Homes of Central Massachusetts, an organization that provides mentoring programs, consulting services for alternative foster parenting programs, and a drop in recreation and resource center. Beginning as a group of concerned citizens, with Mr. Toney's leadership this program was recently adopted as a formal program of The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. As early as 1984 when he started college with a major in urban studies, he was concerned with creating safe, inclusive communities for all people. His focus was initially directed to enforcement through course work in Criminal Justice and service as a police officer (March 1987–April 1995). After the tragic death of his life partner, Mr. Toney's energies shifted to a new focus, homophobia. Mr. Toney has worked as a consultant and program director for AIDS Project

Worcester, AIDS Action Committee (Boston), Healthy Boston Coalition for GLBT Youth, Massachusetts Prevention Center, Massachusetts Department of Education, and Massachusetts Department of Social Services. He served as member of the City of Worcester Human Rights Commission from 1997–2000. He is currently a member of the Arts Worcester Board of Directors. Mr. Toney, his partner, and his daughter are currently working on a book for children, which truly reflects all aspects of diversity.

HONORING RANDY KEVORKIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Randy Kevorkian for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the California Department of Corrections. The California Department of Corrections presents the award annually to employees who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Randy Kevorkian is a Parole Agent III. He has been an agent since 1988 and has worked in numerous assignments in the Visalia and Fresno parole offices. Kevorkian organized the "Another Way" program, a juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention program in the Central Valley. The program allows parole agents and parolees to speak with at-risk kids about the dangers of drugs and gangs.

Over the past 13 years, Kevorkian has addressed more than 85,000 young people and made more than 1,200 presentations at junior and senior high schools, local juvenile halls and group homes.

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded for an employee's exemplary work conduct with the department for a period of months or years, or involvement in a specific assignment of unusual benefit to the department.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Randy Kevorkian for earning the Distinguished Service Award from the California Department of Corrections. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Kevorkian many more years of continued success.

HONORING OUR DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11th make the observance of Veterans Day particularly poignant this year. Engaged in a battle, different from any other in our nation's history, we are once again calling upon the brave members of the U.S. Armed Forces to defend democracy and freedom. Since we began the tradition of honoring American veterans after World War I, Veterans Day has passed with varying degrees of observance. This year